

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /058 W

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R 051300Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4463

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: RESTRICTION OF NEW DELHI/NEW YORK EXCURSION
FARE TO PAN AM AND AIR INDIA

1. RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) ISSUED CIRCULAR NOTE
JANUARY 21 WHICH SO QUALIFIES RIGHT TO ISSUE NEW YORK/
NEW DELHI EXCURSION FARE TICKETS AS TO EXCLUDE ALL
INTERNATIONAL CARRIER EXCEPT PAN AM AND AIRINDIA. NOT
SURPRISINGLY, PAN AM HAS NOT COMPLAINED. BUT TWA WILL BE
HURT.

2. RBI CIRCULAR READS, "ECUURSION FARE TICKETS BETWEEN
INDIA AND THE USA ARE APPLICABLE ONLY TO CARRIERS OPERATING
DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN INDIAN DND THE USA AS A SINGLE
FLIGHT NUMBER." ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS OPERATING IN
INDIA HAVE BEEN OFFERING THE EXCURSION FARE IN ORDER TO
COMPETE, BUT ONLY PAN AM AND AIR INDIA MEET THE DIRECT
FLIGHT, SINGLE FLIGHT NUMBER REQUIREMENT. BOARD OF
AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES PROTESTED RBI ACTION IN A LETTER
TO THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION FEBRUARY 20.

3. ALTHOUGH TWA NO LONGER FLYING TO INDIA, RBI
DIRECTIVE ADVERSELY AFFECTS ITS INTERESTS. IN EFFORT TO
PARTIALLY REESTABLISH ITSELF IN THIS MARKET, TWA HAS MADE
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ARRANGEMENT WITH JAPANESE AIRLINES (JAL) FOR INTERLINE

TRANSFER OF THROUGH PASSENGERS, PARTICULARLY IN CAIRO. ACCORDING TO TWA REP HERE, CAB IN ITS TARIFF F.9 OF DEC. 5, 1975, APPROVED TWA'S INTERLINING WITH CERTAIN CARRIERS AT CAIRO, ATHENS AND ROME, AND APPLICABILITY OF EXCURSION FARE TO THESE ROUTINGS. TWA OPERATES AN OFFICE IN NEW DELHI WHICH PROVIDES SERVICES INCLUDING TICKET SALES.

4. RBI CIRCULAR INCORRECTLY STATES THAT EXCURSION FARE ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA. TWA CONTENDS, AND EMBASSY HAS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE, THAT CAB NEVER ACCEPTED GOI QUALIFIER THAT FARE APPLICABLE ONLY ON DIRECT FLIGHTS OPERATING AS SINGLE FLIGHT NUMBER. IF THAT IS CORRECT, AND GIVEN TWA'S ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE ISSUE, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION OFFICIALLY TO SUPPORT TWA'S EFFORTS TO HAVE THE RBI CIRCULAR AMENDED TO COVER TWA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A) PLEASE CONFIRM THAT CAB DOES NOT REQUIRE "DIRECT FLIGHT, SINGLE FLIGHT NUMBER" CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF EXCURSION FARE TICKETS, AND ADVISE ANY PERTINENT CONDITIONS CAB HAS ESTABLISHED FOR THIS FARE; B) REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM THE GOI THAT THE USG DOES NOT ACCEPT THE UNILATERAL IMPOSITION OF THE "DIRECT FLIGHT, SINGLE FLIGHT NUMBER" CONDITION ON THE NEW YORK/NEW DELHI EXCURSION FARE; C) WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE WHETHER GOI REGULATIONS PERVENTING TWA FROM BENEFITING FROM EXCURSION FARE WOULD ALSO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH AIR BILATERAL.
SAXBE

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